

From: Chris Eddy
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 12/10/01 5:29pm
Subject: Microsoft settlement opinion

To the DOJ:

The settlement is a joke. It does almost nothing to address MSFT's historically outrageous behavior nor curtail future repeats of the same.

I was in the software business for 15 years and over that time dealt with dozens of MSFT employees, from developers to the Director/VP level. I've partnered with MSFT, sold to MSFT and competed directly with MSFT. The problem at MSFT not a couple of over-zealous executives -- an anti-competitive attitude permeates the entire corporation. They consider the law as an impediment; an obstacle to be avoided or conquered.

I don't have a solution, but I know their behavior will not change without compulsion and education. This must take place at all levels -- every employee who interacts with the outside world needs to learn respect for the law.

We are entering a very dangrous period. The last several years MSFT has had fend off attacks from numerous well funded internet startups. Even a focused giant like MSFT had difficulty subduing all these competitors simultaneously. At minimum these companies kept MSFT honest in many emerging markets. But the internet frenzy is over and the startups are weakening. We are now at risk of MSFT extending their monopoly from the desktop to the entire internet. Then you'll have a much bigger problem to fix.

Thank you for your time,
Chris Eddy

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